

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**A. The Status of the Claims**

Claims 1, 17 and 48-58 were pending at the time the Action dated January 30, 2006 was mailed. Claims 1 and 17 have been amended. The amendments are appropriate under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 because they place the claims into a (1) condition for allowance and (2) better form for consideration on appeal, if necessary. Claims 1 and 17 were amended at the suggestion of the Examiner and to correct typographical errors. Regarding the typographical errors, the unsubscripted "2" in the chemical group formula $-O-CO(CH_2)_nCH_3$ was subscripted and a "dash" was added to the beginning of the chemical group formula $O-CO(CH_2)_n-CO_2H$ in order to be consistent with the listings of similar groups.

Support for present claims 1 and 17 can be found throughout the specification and the claims as originally filed. No new matter is added via these amendments.

Claims 1, 17 and 48-58 are pending.

B. Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1, 17 and 48-51 stand rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,673,907. Without conceding that the claims at issue are not patentably distinct from the cited claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,673,907, Applicants, in an effort to expedite allowance of the claimed subject matter, will remove this issue by filing a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer is attached as Appendix A. Thus, the rejection is moot and Applicants respectfully request its withdrawal.

C. The Rejection of Claims 1, 17 and 48-58 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph, is Overcome

The Action rejects claims 1, 17 and 48-58 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants disagree. As noted in the previous Response dated December 20, 2005, a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand the claims when read in light of the specification. Therefore, these claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. However, in an effort to secure prompt allowance, Applicants note that claims 1 and 17 have been revised at the suggestion of the Examiner. Therefore, the rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

D. Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present document is a full and complete response to the Office Action dated January 30, 2006. It is believed that no fees are required in connection with the filing of this document. However, should any fee be required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Fulbright & Jaworski Deposit Account No. 50-1212/PSPS:004USC1.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned Attorney at (512) 536-3035 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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